

K-C Docket No.: 19,043
Serial No.: 10/750,188
Response to Office Action Dated: October 4, 2006

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A disposable absorbent garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction; a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region; a waist region width in the lateral direction and a crotch region width in the lateral direction that is less than the waist region width, and two longitudinal side edges, the disposable absorbent garment comprising:

a liquid barrier layer defining an inner surface, an outer surface, opposite longitudinal side edges and a liquid barrier layer width between the opposite longitudinal side edges of about the crotch region width;

a stretchable carrier layer extending from the front waist region to the back waist region and placed in facing relationship with the liquid barrier layer, the stretchable carrier layer having a width in the waist regions of about the waist region width and a width in the crotch region of about the crotch region width;

an elastic layer attached to the stretchable carrier layer, the elastic layer having an elastic layer width extending away from a lateral centerline of the disposable absorbent garment in the lateral direction from a liquid barrier layer longitudinal side edge to a disposable absorbent garment longitudinal side edge; and

an absorbent section disposed on the inner surface of the liquid barrier layer.

2. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the stretchable carrier layer defines an inner surface and an outer surface and the absorbent section is disposed on the inner surface of the stretchable carrier layer.

3. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the stretchable carrier layer defines an inner surface and an outer surface and the absorbent section is disposed between the inner surface of the liquid barrier layer and the outer surface of the stretchable carrier layer.

4. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 3, wherein the elastic layer is attached to the inner surface of the stretchable carrier layer.

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5. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 3, wherein the elastic layer is attached to the outer surface of the stretchable carrier layer.

6. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 4, further comprising a stretchable containment flap layer attached to the inner surface of the stretchable carrier layer.

7. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein an elastic layer is attached to the stretchable carrier layer on both sides of the lateral centerline in the back waist region.

8. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein an elastic layer is attached to the stretchable carrier layer on both sides of the lateral centerline in the back waist region and the front waist region.

9. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the stretchable carrier layer is extensible in the lateral direction.

10. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic layer has a fastener element attached.

11. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 7, wherein an elastic ear material is bonded to a longitudinal side edge of the elastic layer.

12. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 11, wherein the elastic ear material has a fastener element attached.

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13. (currently amended) A method of making a disposable absorbent garment that defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that extends between and connects the waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the method comprising:

- a) providing a first continuous web, the first continuous web comprising a stretchable carrier layer and intermittent elastic material segments, wherein the stretchable carrier layer extends from one intermittent elastic material segment to the next intermittent elastic material segment in a machine direction;
- b) providing a second continuous web, the second continuous web comprising a liquid barrier material;
- c) joining the first continuous web in facing relationship with the second continuous web to form an outer cover web;
- d) providing a series of absorbent assemblies and attaching the absorbent assemblies to the outer cover web to form a garment web; and
- e) selectively cutting the garment web into individual garments, generally bisecting the intermittent elastic material segments in the lateral direction.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the additional step of providing a liner web in facing relationship with the absorbent assemblies prior to selectively cutting the garment web.

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15. (currently amended) A method of making a disposable absorbent garment that defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that extends between and connects the waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the method comprising:

- a) providing a first continuous web, the first continuous web comprising a liquid barrier material and having an outer surface and an inner surface;
- b) providing a series of absorbent assemblies and attaching the absorbent assemblies to the inner surface of the first continuous web;
- c) providing a second continuous web in facing relationship with the inner surface of the first continuous web to form a garment web, the second continuous web comprising a stretchable carrier layer and intermittent elastic material segments, wherein the stretchable carrier layer extends from one intermittent elastic material segment to the next intermittent elastic material segment in a machine direction; and
- e) selectively cutting the garment web into individual garments, generally bisecting the intermittent elastic material segments in the lateral direction.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the stretchable carrier layer has an outer surface and an inner surface and the intermittent elastic material segments are attached to the inner surface.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the stretchable carrier layer has an outer surface and an inner surface and the intermittent elastic material segments are attached to the outer surface.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising the additional step of providing a stretchable containment flap web in facing relationship with the inner surface of the stretchable carrier layer prior to selectively cutting the garment web.